

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 1, 7-8 and 15-23 without prejudice. New Claims 24-29 are added herein. Claims 2-6, 9-14 and 24-29 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated Claims 5, 9-10 and 12 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims, and that Claims 13-14 are similarly allowed if also amended to overcome the objection cited in the instant Office Action. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of Claims 5, 9-10 and 12-14.

To form new Claim 24, allowable Claim 12 is amended to include the limitations of its base claim (Claim 7) and any intervening claims (Claim 11). Therefore, Claim 24 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim Objections

The instant Office Action states that Claim 13 is objected to and that Claim 14 inherits the objection because of its dependency on Claim 13. Claim 13 is amended to address the objection, and thus the objection to Claim 14 is also addressed.

102 Rejections

Claim 6

The instant Office Action states that Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosoburd et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,871). Claim 6 is dependent on Claim 5, which has been amended to include the limitations of its base claim (Claim 1) and any intervening claims (there were none) and is therefore in condition for allowance. By virtue of its dependency on Claim 5, Claim 6 is also in condition for

allowance, and a discussion of the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is rendered moot at this time.

Claims 2 and 3

The instant Office Action states that Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sinai (“Sinai,” U.S. Patent No. 3,610,924). Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on Claim 5, which as discussed above is in condition for allowance. By virtue of their dependency on Claim 5, Claims 2 and 3 are also in condition for allowance, and a discussion of the rejection of Claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is rendered moot at this time.

Claim 11

The instant Office Action states that Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kornblit et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0184155). Claim 11 is dependent on Claim 9, which has been amended to include the limitations of its base claim (Claim 7) and any intervening claims (Claim 8) and is therefore in condition for allowance. By virtue of its dependency on Claim 9, Claim 11 is also in condition for allowance, and a discussion of the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot at this time.

103 Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinai in view of Liau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,618,474). Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 5, which as discussed above is in condition for allowance. By virtue of its dependency on Claim 5, Claim 4 is also in condition for allowance, and a discussion of the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

Conclusions

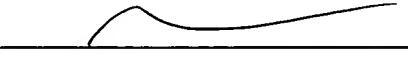
In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 2-6 and 9-14, as well as new Claims 24-29, overcome the objections and rejections of record and, therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

Date: 3/22/05


John P. Wagner, Jr.
Reg. No. 35,398

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 938-9060